



EXHIBIT # 2
DATE 3/12/15
SB 183

Senator Taylor Brown
Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
Montana Senate
PO Box 2005000
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Dear Senator Brown,

Darigold is the marketing and processing subsidiary of Northwest Dairy Association (NDA), which is owned by over 500 dairy farm families throughout the Northwest. Darigold produces a full line of dairy-based products for retail, foodservice, commodity and specialty markets and is one of the largest U.S. dairy processors and exporters. Darigold operates 11 processing plants throughout the Northwest, processing high-quality milk produced by its dairy farm families. NDA has 29 members in Montana and a bottling plant in Bozeman.

Northwest Dairy Association and Darigold support Senate Bill No 183 the modifications to 81-23-202 (5), (6), the proposed changes to the producer, producer-distributors, distributor or jobber assessment reporting dates, and clarification of the reporting schedule and license violation language. (the following is the marked-up changes)

81-23-202. Licenses – disposition of income.....

(5) The assessments upon producer-distributors, producers, and distributors must be paid ~~quarterly before January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15 of each year~~ before the 25th day of each month. The amount of the assessments must be computed by applying the fee designated by the board and the fee established in subsection (4) to the volume of milk sold in the preceding ~~calendar quarter~~ month.

(6) Failure of a producer-distributor, producer, or distributor to pay an assessment when due is a violation of this chapter, and ~~a license under this chapter automatically terminates and is void~~ the board may revoke a license upon due cause and after a hearing. A licensee shall pay all assessments accrued through the date a license is revoked under this section. A terminated-revoked license must be reinstated by the board upon payment of all accrued assessments and a delinquency fee ~~equal to 30% of the assessment that was due~~ established by rule.

Thank you for your time, effort and clarification of these rules.

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.